

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-3.

Please add new claim 4.

4. (New) A method of controlling operation of a detonator which includes an energy storage device, an energy discharge circuit and a control unit, the method including the steps of arming the detonator and, if a defined signal is not received by the detonator within a predetermined period after arming the detonator, of using the control unit to enable the energy discharge circuit thereby to cause energy to be discharged from the storage device and place the detonator in a known safe state, the method being characterized in that the defined signal is an arm-hold signal which causes the timing of the predetermined period to be recommenced and which is generated at regular defined intervals.